Robert Land Academy

2009

Robert Land Academy

2008 ~ 2009

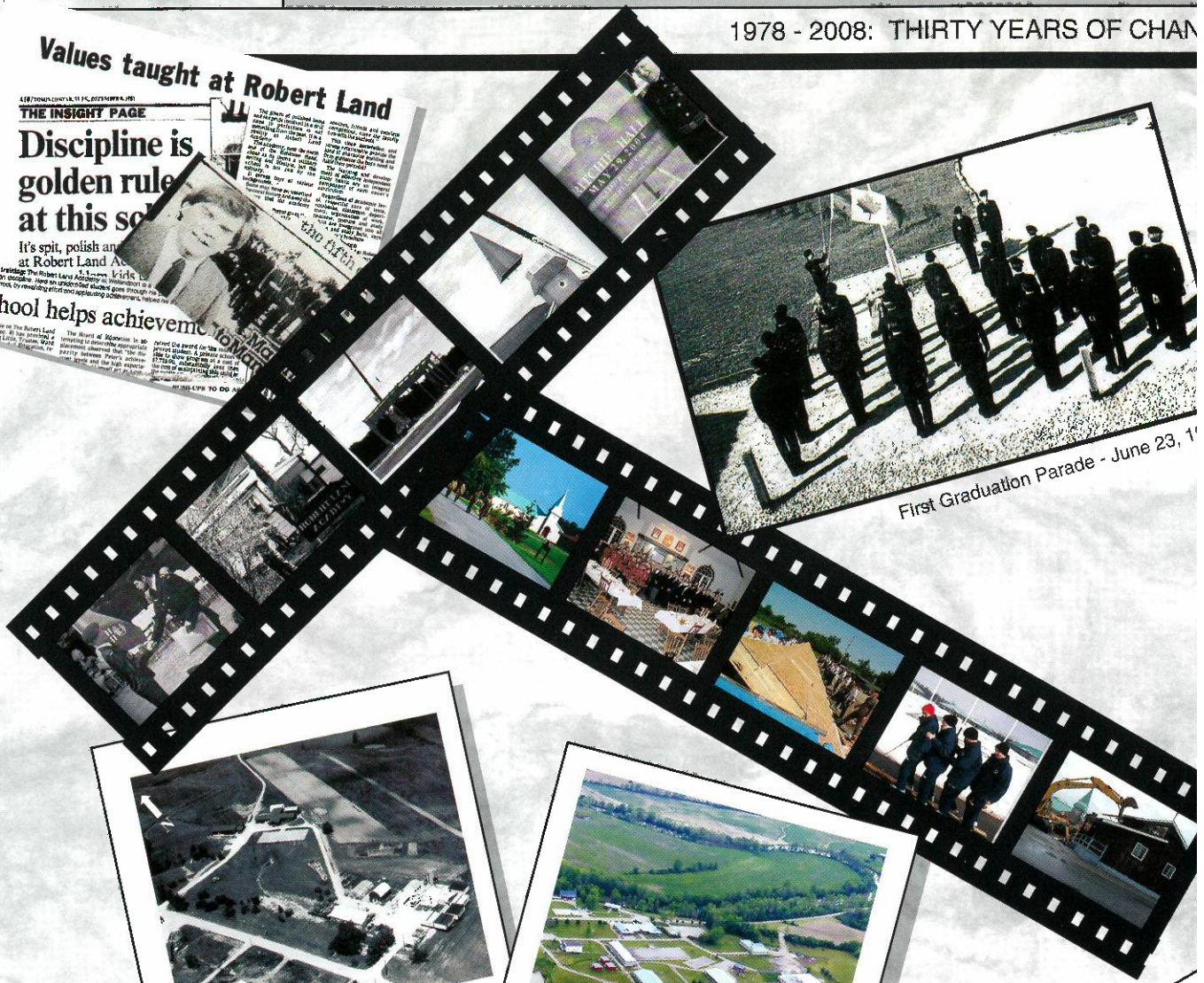
Celebrating 30 Years

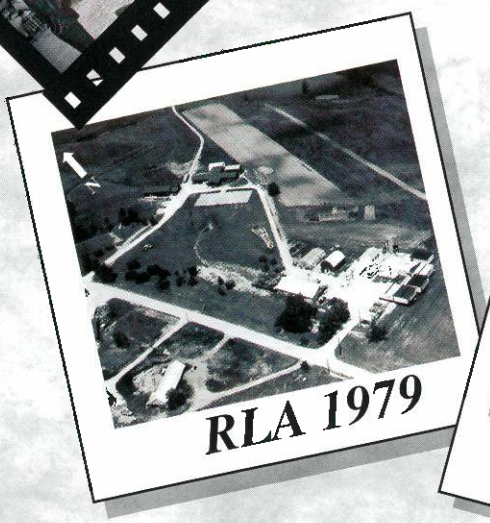
Published in Canada
Printed in USA

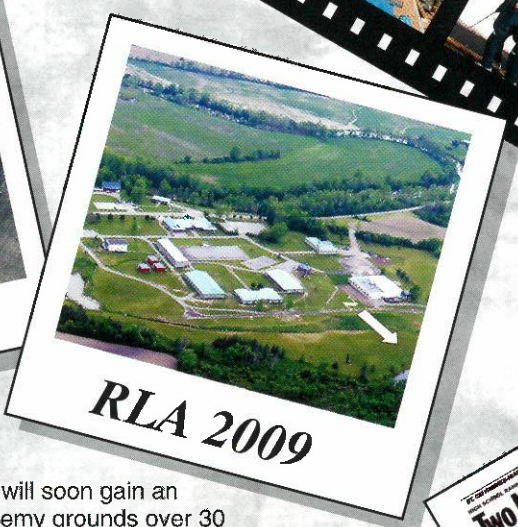
ROBERT LAND ACADEMY

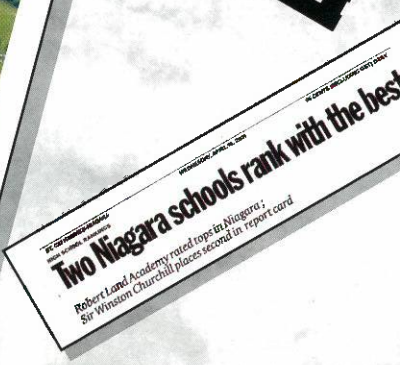
OVER THE YEARS

1978 - 2008: THIRTY YEARS OF CHAN








Two Niagara schools rank with the best
Robert Land Academy rated top in Niagara;
Sir Winston Churchill places second in report card

Compare these two photos very closely and you will soon gain an appreciation of the physical changes to the Academy grounds over 30 years. Note the directional arrows pointing north. You almost need to turn this page upside down to orient the 2009 photo. What appears to be the parade square on the 1979 photo is actually the sports pad, which is attached to the north corner of the present day parade square in the 2009 photo.

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Lieutenant Colonel G. S. Bowman

~ Taken from the Headmaster's Address to the 2009 Cadets - June 20, 2009 ~

Much has changed in 30 years ... and ... much has not changed in 30 years.

On June 23, 1979 - the closing parade of the Academy's first year - the original 28 Cadets marched onto the patch of grass we had deemed a Parade Ground. There were no graduates.

In that first year and for a number to come, what had been operating as a pig farm ever so gradually transformed to become Robert Land Academy. Classrooms were in the old farmhouse and old portables. An empty barn sat where Fitzgibbon Hall now stands.

he single barracks was a patched-together conglomeration of pre-made cabins, joined by a central common room and heated rimarily with a wood stove. The toilets were biodegradable models and showers were centralized in the middle of the building. The ining Hall was located where a raised berm adjacent to the side walk leading to Landholme Hall now rests. It was a wood framed uilding stained a dark brown; much like the colour of my hair at the time. There was no pavement, no Parade Square, no flush ilets, no gymnasium, no NCO club, no computers, no depot, and not a lot of other things.

1978 there were 13 grades in high school. Pierre Trudeau occupied the Prime Minister's residence and Jimmy Carter, the White ouse. The top movies of the year were *Kramer vs. Kramer* and *The Muppet Movie*. The top song was *Surrender* by Cheap Trick. od Stewart, Peaches and Cream, Donna Summer and Gloria Gayner all had hits that year. Television was analogue, necessarily ttached to an aerial. Cable was a brilliant idea and in its infancy, not yet commercially available in our area. Satellites were the xclusive domain of government ... no thought to sharing space for entertainment. Telephones were all land line, and the only thing igital were your fingers.

lectronic games in the 80's were the exclusive domain of Nintendo and Atari and featured *Pac Man, Donkey Kong, Mario Brothers* and *Space Invaders*, and it was a real event in a household to have one that everyone took turns playing. In the 90's, *Super Mario , Syndicate, Sim City* were the top sellers, and in the last 10 years *World of Warcraft, New Super Mario*, and *Grand Theft Auto* ave been the big sellers. Now, everyone has their own machine and coordinated hand held for the car, ensuring they don't have o give anybody else a turn.

ince 1978 the Academy's enrollment has been just over 4000 boys. If you take just the Fall Exercise and assume that each boy ver the period of his stay at Robert Land marched with pack the 90 km of the Fall Exercise, it means that over the 30 years we ave marched the circumference of the Earth 9 times! If you consider the average amount of laps run by each boy in a year, over e 30 years we have run 80,000 miles past the moon! This does not include sports, training, competitions, etc. Our kitchen has erved meals for us over 16,000 times. Just over 75,000 square feet of building space has been constructed since 1978.

Much has changed and much has been done, but what is of real importance and value is the change that comes from that which as not changed - the RLA experience.

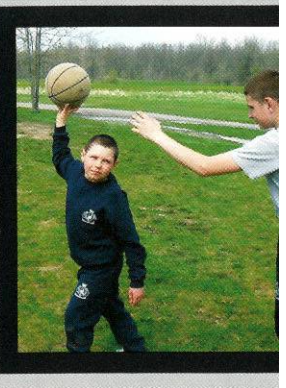
ome may find it strange that when we hear from old boys - which is really quite often - they never recall what they missed; the lectronics, the video games, even the girls! What they do recall I can only assume has real value for them and must be what really natters to them - doing things they didn't like and learning they could be good at them...and learning to like them; overcoming the esistance to change born in power struggles with parents, siblings, etc.; earning respect; having to grow up; assuming esponsibility for themselves, and then for others; truly valuing their accomplishments because they had come from hard work; aluing hard work because it brought them accomplishments; finding in themselves the strength of character to command their ttitude, make choices and be accountable.

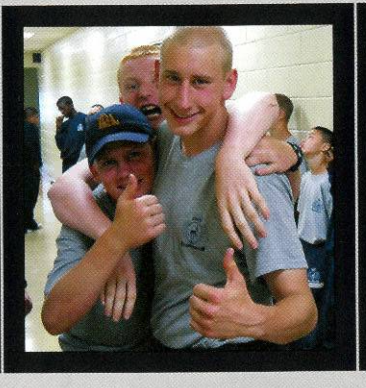
s we encounter old boys and they recount their experiences following Robert Land, I am always taken with the value they place n those which have been good and immediately rewarding and those which have not, and their distinction of each. They come to ecognize the value of each and most importantly how their choice of attitude towards them impacts their daily lives, their onfidence in themselves, the way they treat others and their futures. This is absolutely central to the experience of Robert Land cademy and the essence of all education.

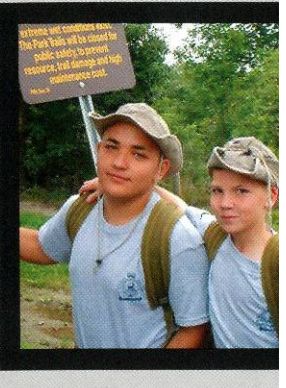
o the grade 12 graduates, you have had the RLA experience. A very large part of it has been to mold your will and strengthen our resolve so that your choice of how you perceive it, your attitude towards it, and how you value it as a component of your haracter, is yours to act upon.

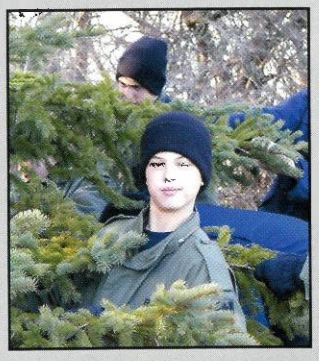
his is what has not changed at Robert Land Academy in 30 years. It is what drives the change we see in our boys and our ampus community. It is this experience, the robust living of it, of disliking it, of waging real battles, of learning what is of true value nd accepting responsibility for it, equipping each of you to meet a world that will demand first and foremost an attitude that befits a trong character. As Aristotle said, *"Weakness in attitude becomes weakness in character"*. The choice is now all yours. I pray you hoose wisely.

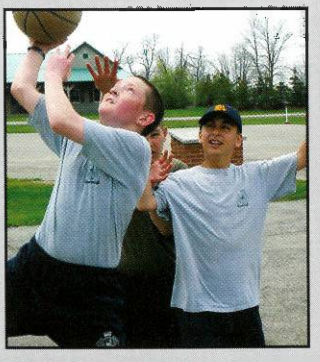
alpha company





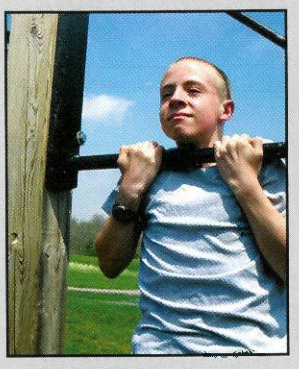


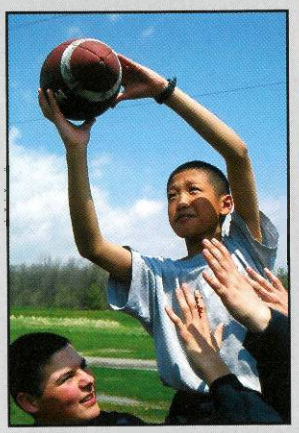


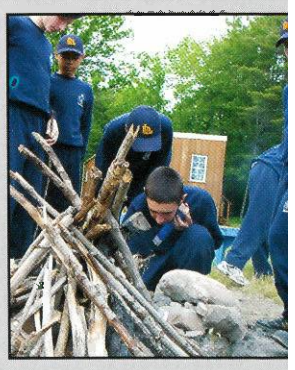


Captain G. Bowman
Company Commander

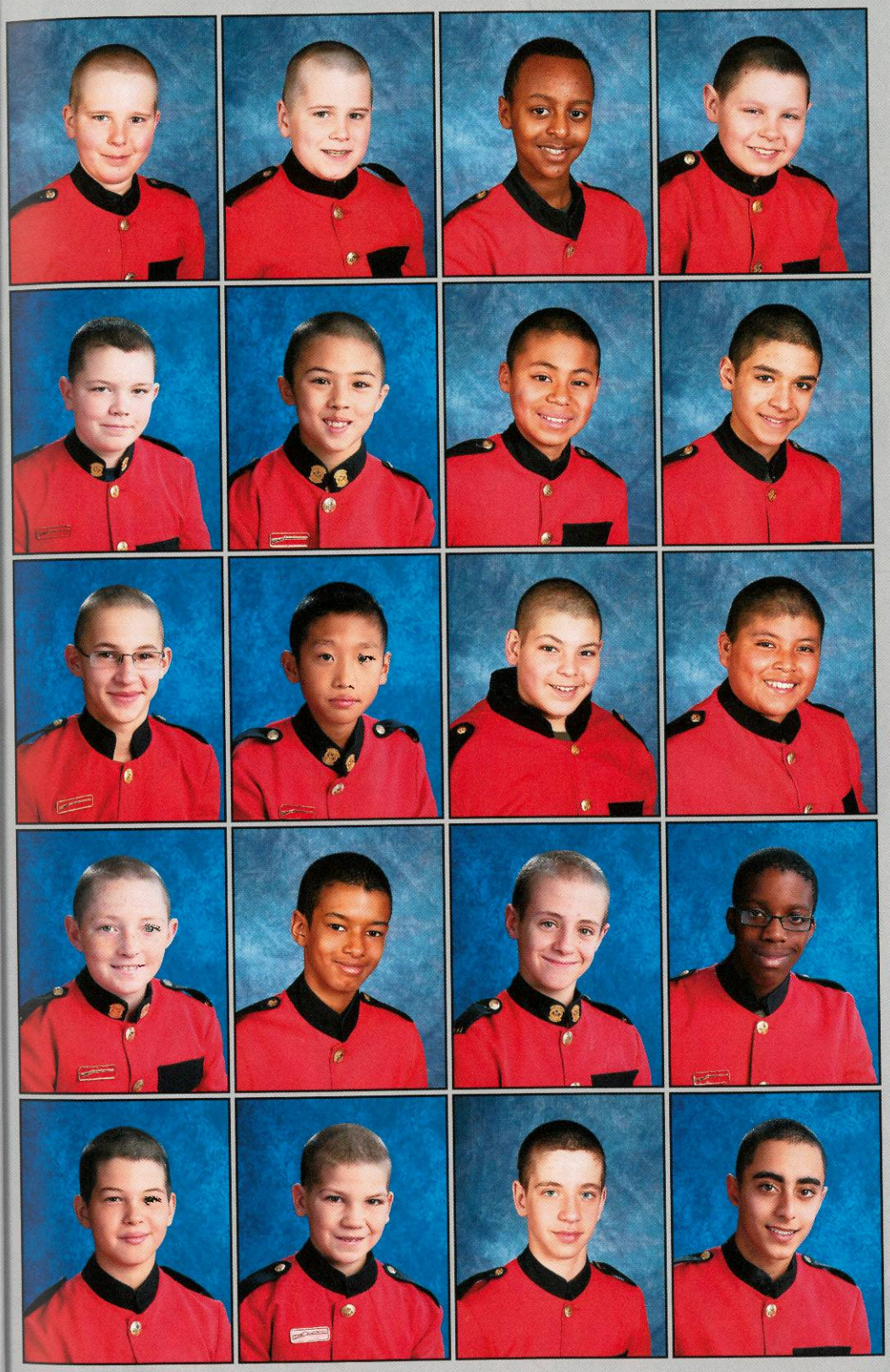
MWO I. Davidson
Company Sergeant Major







grades 6, 7 & 8



Grade 6

David Koetsier
Ethan Lambie
Simon Woldemariam
Brandon Wysocki

Grade 7

Joshua Arnold
Connor Butt
Walter Farady
Kevin Fernandes

Jonathan Fraser
Calvin Lee
Ilan Perez
Stefan Rowland

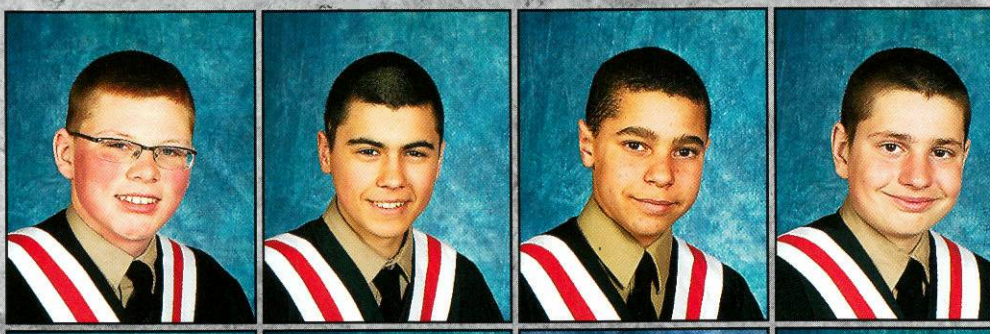
Dayne Roy-Reimer
Quinton Stull
Kyle Tebbs
Michael Upfold

Andrew Urist
Jonathan Wilson
Adam Winick

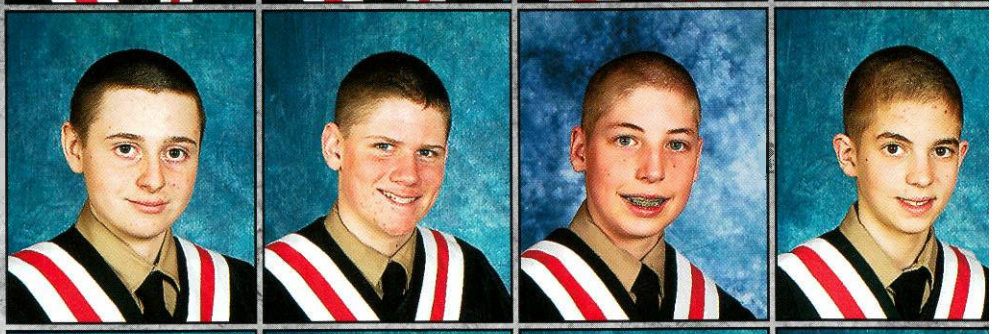
Grade 8

Spencer Soltan

GOOD LUCK GRADUATES



Lucas Arnold
Michael Austin
Anthony Bieber
Mathieu Bond

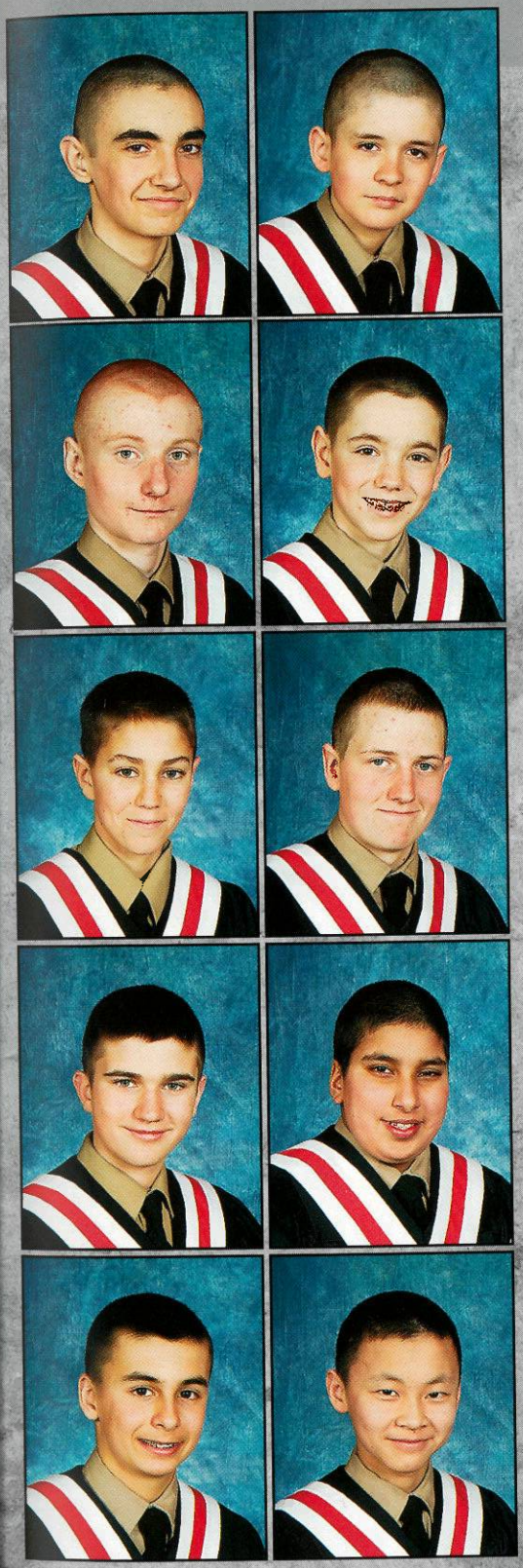


Marc De Ford
Kyle Delaney
Colin Ducharme
Joseph Ferri

Christoffer Gaynair-Dede
Shelby Goose
Jeremi Habib
Stephen Halsey

David (James) Hearnden
Michael Hollister
Daniel Johnson
Aire (Erik) Kartin

A COMPANY - GRADUATES



Alexander MacIntyre
Nicholas Olynyk

Darek Partyka
Tristen Ramsay

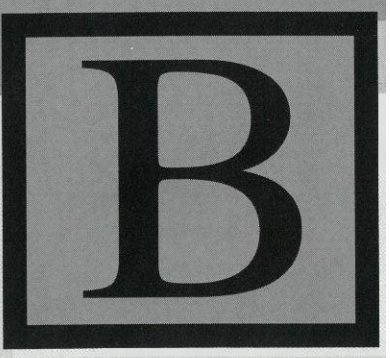
Rodin Schimper
Samuel Schreiber

Morgan Smith
Aarondip Toor

Taylor Woolley
Zhe Chuan (Joshua) Zhang

8TH GRADE

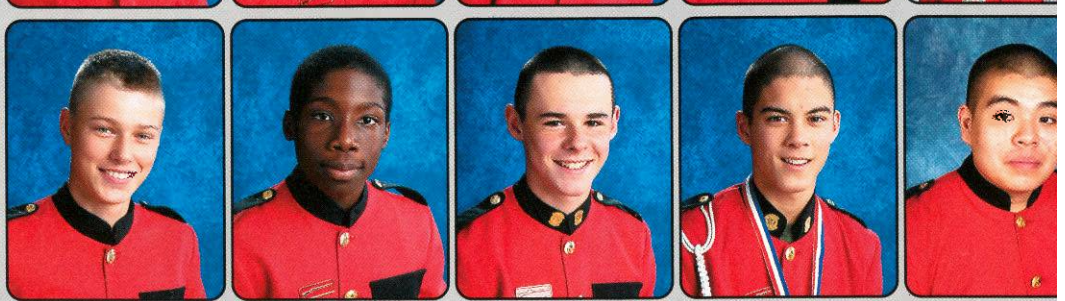
bravo company



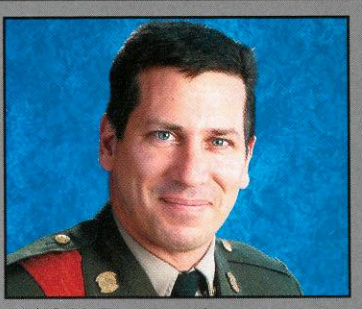
Elliott Aiton
Jeremiah Banelis
Robert Belza
Morgan Bryanton
Bogdan Butean

Johnson Case
Joseph DiNapoli
Leon Duperre
Torance Frederick
Devon Gale

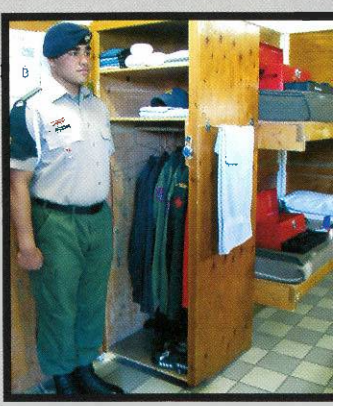
Brandon Garton
George Kareem
Jonathan Gray
Justin Gurley
Michael Hui



Captain C. Doig
Company Commander



MWO M. Beardwood
Company Sergeant Major



9TH GRADE

Motivation to Succeed ...

Max Hynes
Darren Kenney
David MacDonald
Connor MacLeod
Mark Majchrowicz

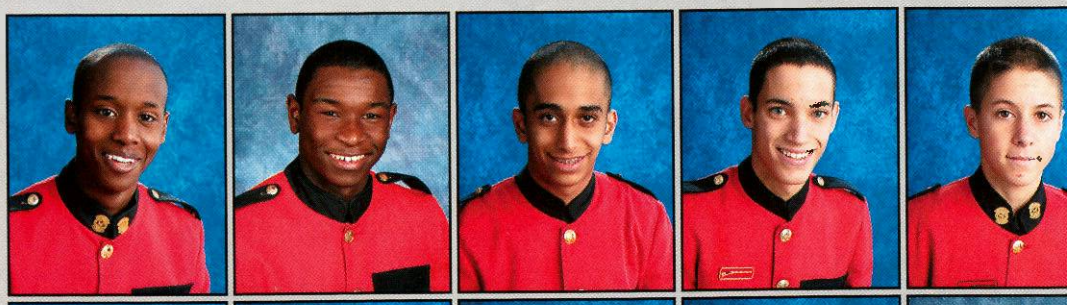
Andrew Michael
Ivan Rassolov
James Rodger
Sam Sadler
Martin Schady

Nicholas Shearer
Darian Walters
Brandon Wong
Justin Wysocki
Andy Zhang

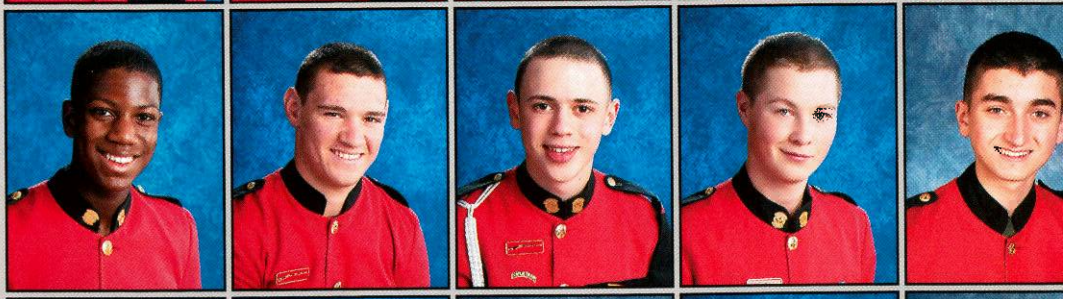
...Responsibility to Lead !

bravo company

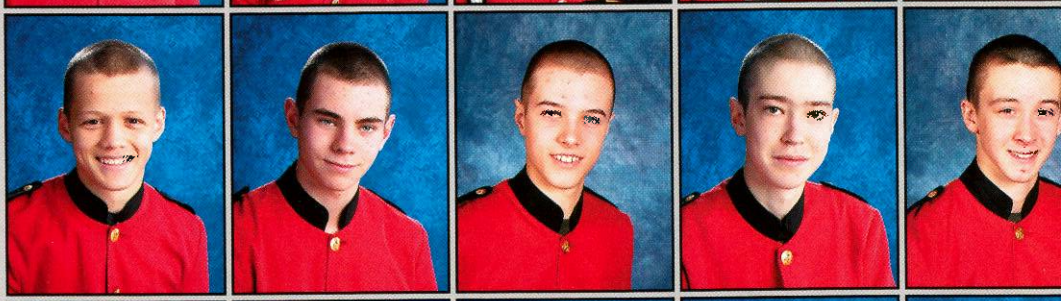
Adam Ahmed
Oladel Akinkuotu
Ali Aldubaikhi
Trevor Branbury
Chrisopher Bertschi



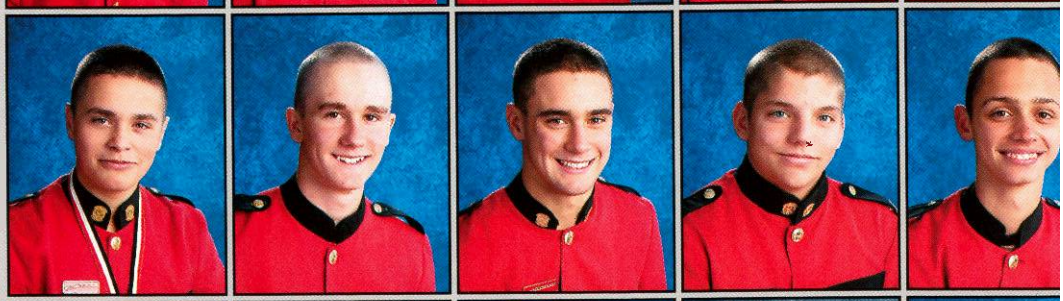
Stanley Bieberdorf
Zachary Camper
Justin Cescolini
Earl James Daniels
Christian
DiTommaso



Samuel Foran
Daveth Freemantle
David Friel
James Friske
Kyle Godin



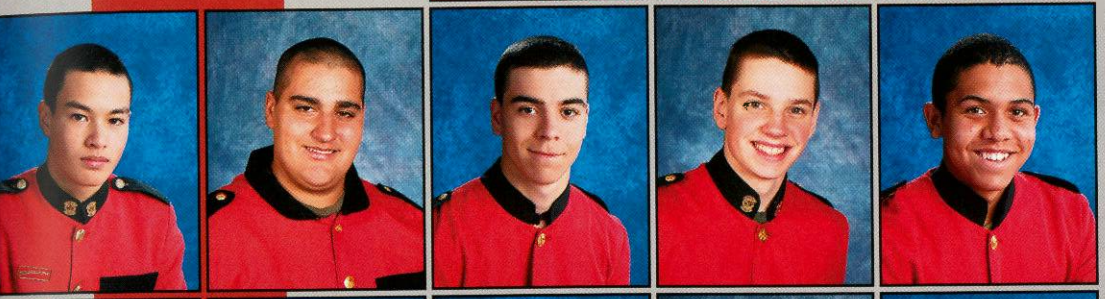
Stephen Grant
Matthew Henrich
David Hillman
Phillip Hubert
Maxim Jmakin



Matthew Kerns
Usman Khan
Zakir Lalani
Matthew MacDonald
Kurt Marquardt

10TH GRADE

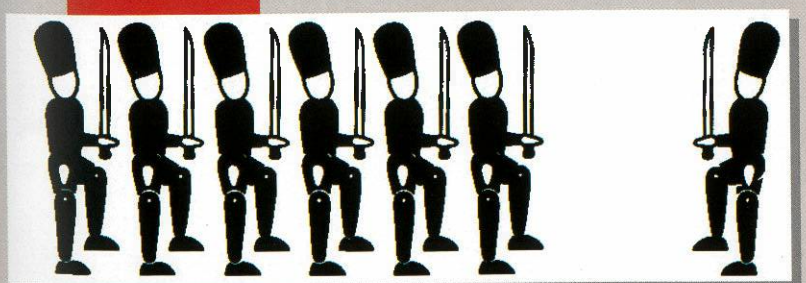
Mehboob Mast
Sean McCarthy
Matthew McLaren



Giovanni Militano
Glenn Radatzke
Artur Radziwill
Cody Schmidt
Amani Shaw

Carson Smith
Hunter Topolinski
Jack Van Der Pols
Aaron Veenstra
Malcolm Vinet

Joshua Watts
Devin Westlake
Craig Willoughby

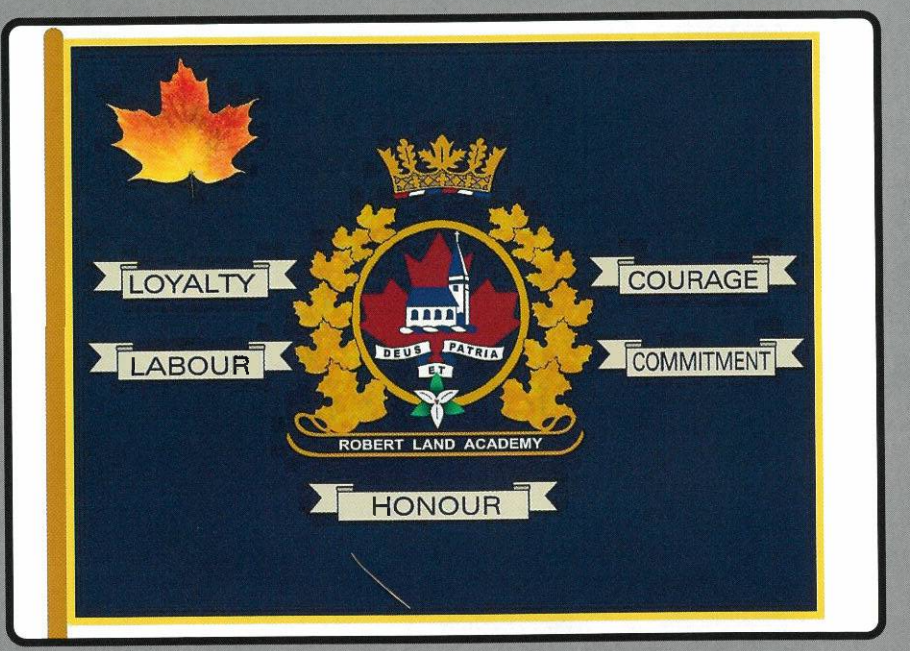


B

charlie company

Captain J. Milliken
Company Commander

MWO M. Robinson
Company Sergeant Major



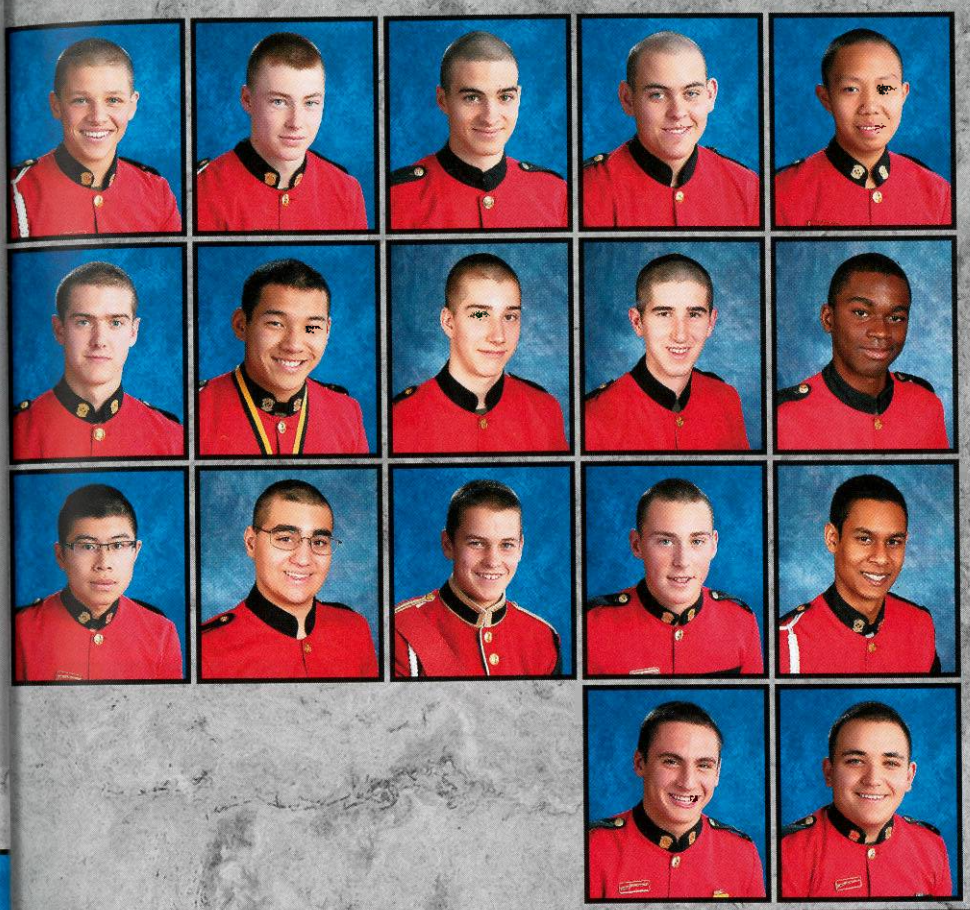
Grade 11

Mosalbalaje Adebisi
Christopher Albert
Gabi Aoude
Henry Chan
Ming Jang Chen

Dejan Cica
Dakota Collins
Greg Doane
Derek Driscoll
Fabian Fraser

Michael Grade
Matthew Hannaford
Hasan Khalifeh
Ho Lee
Louis-Martin Lepine

grades 11 & 12



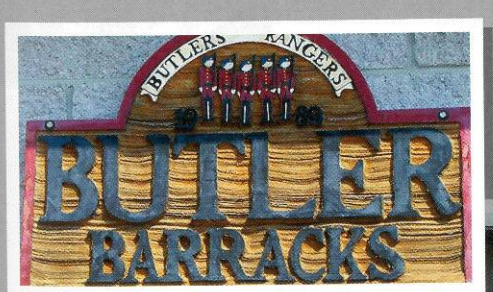
Spencer Lofranco
Scott MacDonald
Conor McCracken
Michael McDonald
Chun Ng

John Northlander
Tsering Shrestha
Nathan Sikora
Joseph Smith
Rodney Strachan

Ronald Sun
Michael Torsigni
Scott Vatcher
Warren Darcy
Rick Yacub

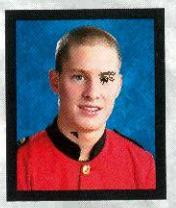
Grade 12

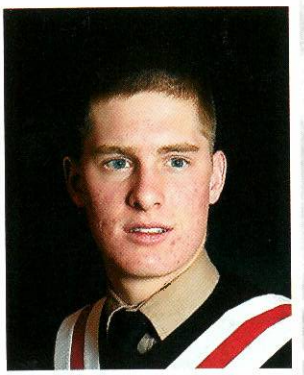
Jordon Posocco
Michael Reardon



C

Grade 12 Graduates



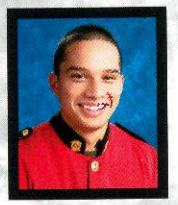


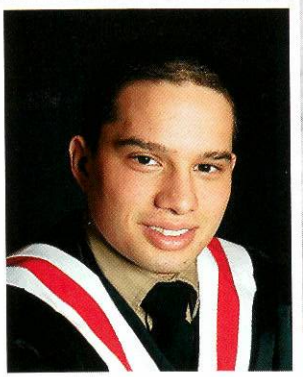
Eric Bablitz

Eric was awarded the Academy Good Conduct Cord, Service Pin, Silver Academic Award, Bronze Citizenship Award, and the Fitness Pin. He is an Ontario Scholar and earned Marks of Distinction. Eric accepted a position at Bishops University.

Scott Baum

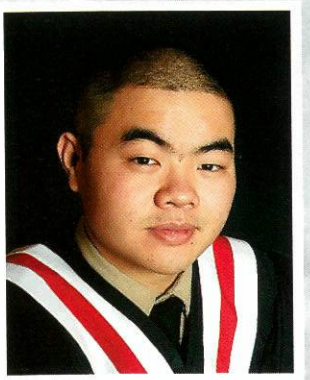
Scott was awarded the Academy Good Conduct Cord, Service Pin, Bronze Athletic Award, Bronze Citizenship Award, and the Fitness Pin. He earned Marks of Distinction. Scott accepted a position at Fanshawe College in the Landscape Design Program

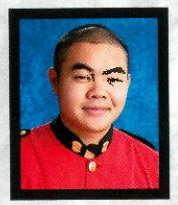




Victor (Alex) Briell

Alex was awarded the Academy Good Conduct Cord, Service Pin, and the Fitness Pin. He earned Marks of Distinction. Alex accepted a position at Lakehead University where he is pursuing a Bachelor of Education Degree, majoring in Intermediate / Senior Kinesiology.

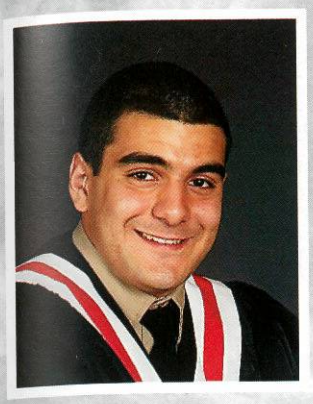


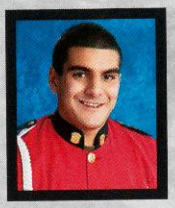


Ming-Ting (Eric) Chen

Eric was awarded the Academy Good Conduct Cord, Service Pi Gold Academic Award and Gold Citizenship Award. He is an Ontario Scholar and is on the Academy Honour Roll. He is the recipient of the Larry Davidson Memorial Award, the Senior Mathematics Book Prize, the Euclid Medal, and the Royal Bank Senior Business & Commerce Prize. Eric is furthering his studi at Columbia College.

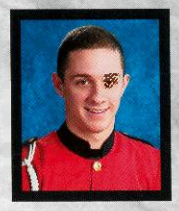
Grade 12 Graduates



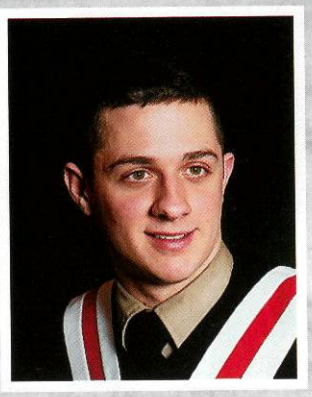


Dylan Coscia

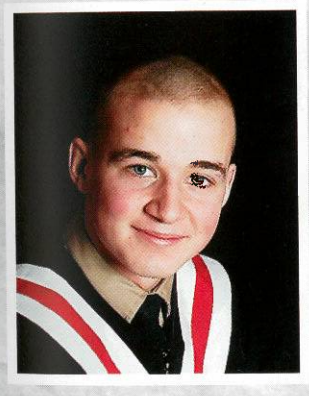
Dylan was awarded the Academy Good Conduct Cord, Service Pin, Silver Athletic Award, and the Bronze Citizenship Award. In his graduating year Dylan served as the Academy Aide-de-Camp. Dylan accepted a position at Fanshawe College in the Electrical Techniques Program.

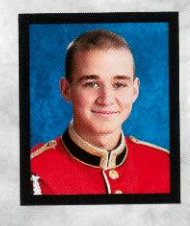


Adrian Currie



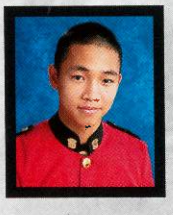
Adrian was awarded the Academy Good Conduct Cord, Service Pin, Bronze Citizenship Award, and the Fitness Pin. Adrian accepted a position at Capilano University in the Wilderness Leadership Program.



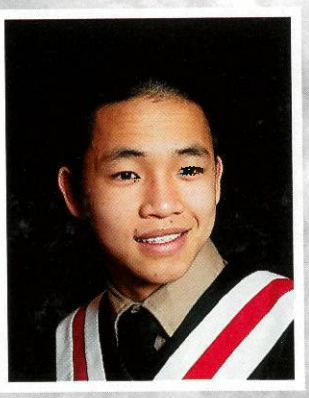


Michael Dallas-Petersen

Michael was awarded the Academy Good Conduct Cord, Service Pin, Gold Citizenship Award, and the Fitness Pin. He is an Ontario Scholar and is on the Academy Honour Roll. He is also the recipient of the Robert Land Trophy. Michael served as the Academy's Head Boy in his graduation year. He accepted a position at the College of New Caledonia in the Criminology Program.

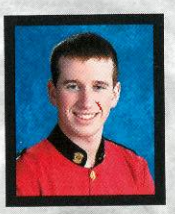


Kong Phoi (Robert) Duong

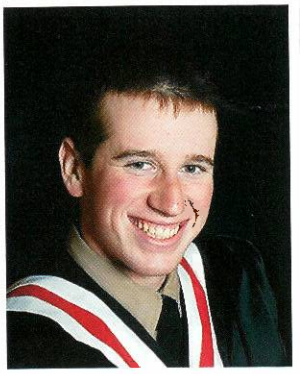


Robert was awarded the Academy Good Conduct Cord, Service Pin, Silver Academic Award, Silver Athletic Award, Gold Citizenship Award, and the Fitness Pin. He earned Marks of Distinction. Robert accepted a position at the University of Guelph in the Bachelor of Computing Program.

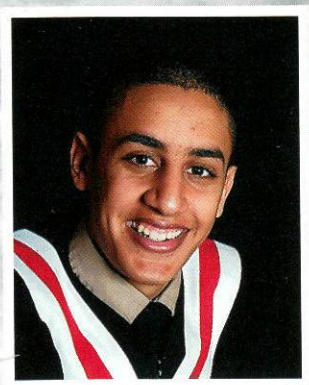
Grade 12 Graduates

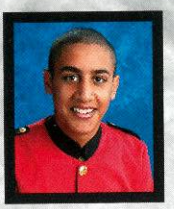


Devin Earle



Devin was awarded the Academy Good Conduct Cord, Service Pin, Bronze Citizenship Award, and the Fitness Pin. Devin accepted a position at Lakehead University in the Bachelor of Arts Program.

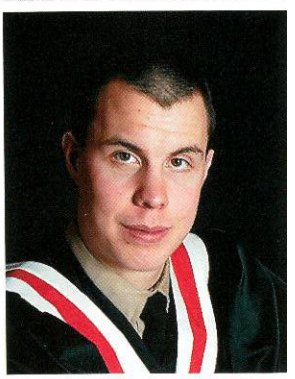




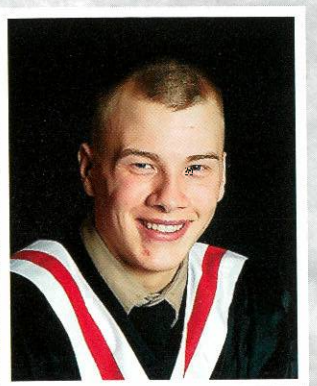
Shereef Elkhafif

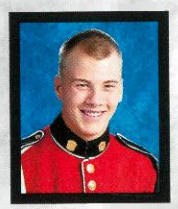
Shereef was awarded the Bronze Academic Award and the Fitness Pin. He is an Ontario Scholar and is on the Academy Honour Roll. Shareef accepted a position at the University of Waterloo where he will pursue a degree in Civil Engineering.

Aaron Ens



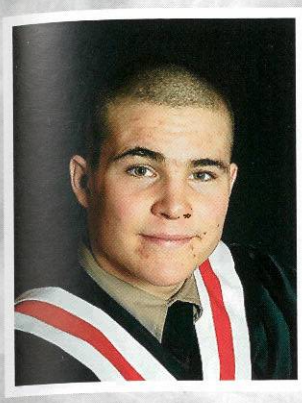
Aaron was awarded the Academy Good Conduct Cord, Service Pin, Bronze Athletic Award, Silver Citizenship Award, and the Fitness Pin. Aaron accepted a position at Fanshawe College in the Business Program.

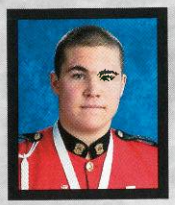




Gregory Joyce

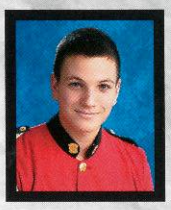
Gregory was awarded the Academy Good Conduct Cord, Serv
Pin, Silver Athletic Award, Bronze Citizenship Award, and th
Fitness Pin. He is also the recipient of the Martial Arts Award
and the Royal Canadian Legion Medal of Excellence. Gregor
accepted a position at the College of the North Atlantic in the
Sheet Metal Fabrication Program.





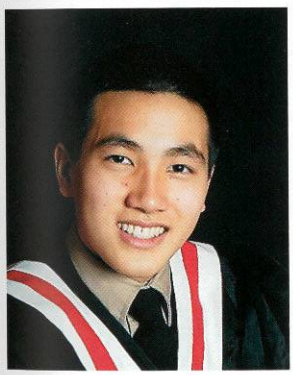
Gordon Kerr

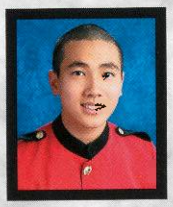
Gordon was awarded the Academy Service Pin, Bronze Athletic Award, and the Fitness Pin. Gordon accepted a position at Nova Scotia Community College in the Culinary Arts Program.



Zachary Krzewski

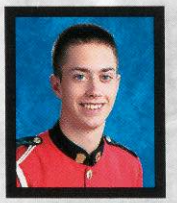
Zachary was awarded the Academy Good Conduct Cord, Service Pin, and the Gold Academic Award. He is an Ontario Scholar and is on the Academy Honour Roll. Zachary is also the recipient of the Governor Generals Award, Senior Science Book Prize and the Senior English Book Prize. He accepted a position at the University of Western Ontario where he will pursue a degree in Biological and Medical Science.



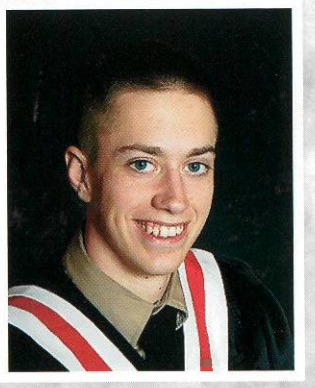


Jason Kwok

Jason was awarded the Academy Good Conduct Cord, Service Pin, Silver Academic Award, Bronze Athletic Award, Bronze Citizenship Award, and the Fitness Pin. Jason accepted a position at Sir Wilfred Laurier University in the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Program.

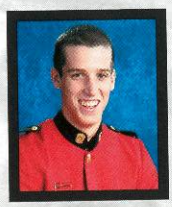


James Marshall

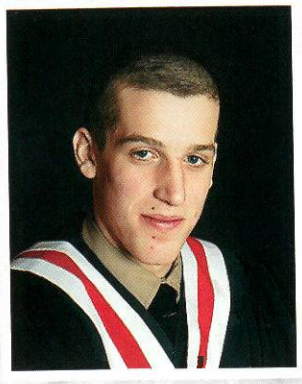


James was awarded the Academy Service Pin, Bronze Athletic Award, Bronze Citizenship Award, and the Fitness Pin. James accepted a position at Capilano University in the Outdoor Recreation Management Program.

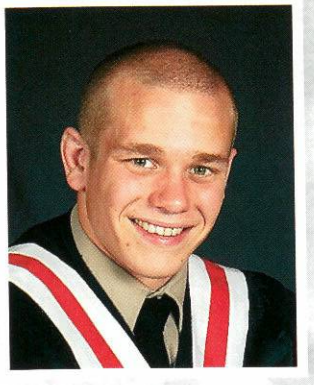
Grade 12 Graduates

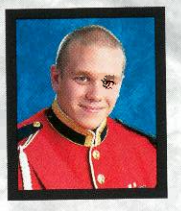


John Pulford



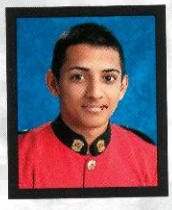
John was awarded the Academy Good Conduct Cord, Bronze Athletic Award, Gold Citizenship Award, and the Fitness Pin. John has chosen to enter the workforce following graduation.



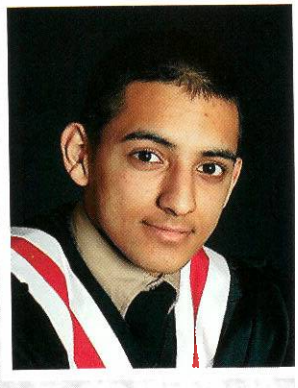


Mark (Jamie) Rutherford

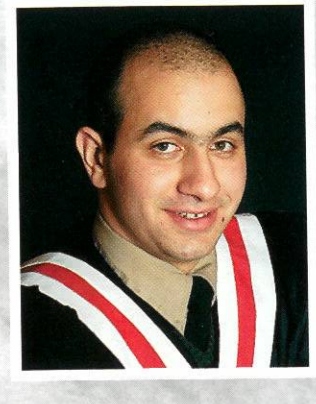
Jamie was awarded the Academy Good Conduct Cord, Service F Gold Academic Award, Gold Athletic Award, Gold Citizenship Award, and the Fitness Pin. He is an Ontario Scholar and is on t Academy Honour Roll. Jamie is also the recipient of the Robert Land Trophy and was selected Valedictorian. In his graduating year Jamie served as the Academy Aide-de-Camp. He has accepted a position at York University where he will pursue a degree in Kinesiology and Health Science.

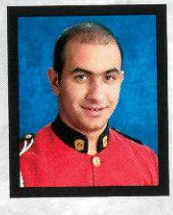


Zohaib Samdani



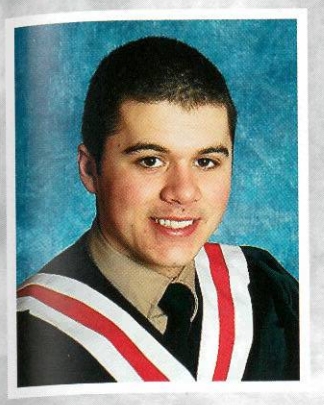
Zohaib was awarded the Academy Service Pin and the Fitness Pin. Zohaib accepted a position at Szabist University of Science and Technology in the Media Sciences Program.

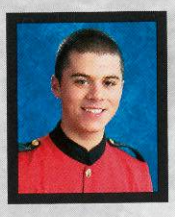




Mohamed Serafi

Mohamed was awarded the Academy Good Conduct Cord, Service Pin, and the Gold Citizenship Award. He is also the recipient of the Robert Land Academy Community Service Award. Mohamed accepted a position at Farley Dickenson University.

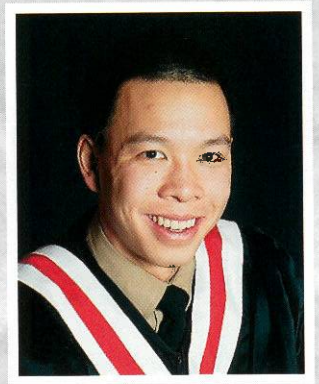




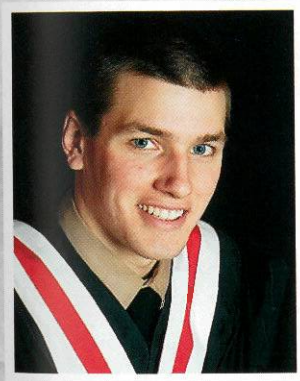
Samuel Tilden

Samuel was awarded the Academy Fitness Pin. He is an Ontario Scholar and is on the Academy Honour Roll. Following graduation, Samuel returned to Robert Land Academy for another semester prior to heading off to University.

Terrance Tong



Terrance was awarded the Academy Good Conduct Cord, Service Pin, Gold Athletic Award, Bronze Citizenship Award, and the Fitness Pin. He is the recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteer Award, Athlete of the Year Award, and the Most Valuable Player (Basketball) Award. Terrance accepted a position at Ryerson University in the Information Technology Management Program.



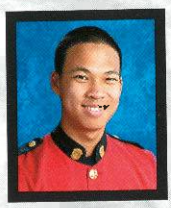
Robert Weston

Robert was awarded the Academy Service Pin, Silver Athletic Award, Bronze Citizenship Award, and the Fitness Pin. He also earned Marks of Distinction and is the recipient of the Senior Geography Book Prize. Robert accepted a position at Brock University where he will pursue an Honours Degree in Sociology.

Alex Wong

Alex was awarded the Academy Good Conduct Cord, Bronze Academic Award, Bronze Citizenship Award, and the Fitness Pin. He is an Ontario Scholar and is on the Academy Honour Roll. Alex accepted a position at Ryerson University in the Information Technology Management Program.

Grade 12 Graduates



Andrew Wong

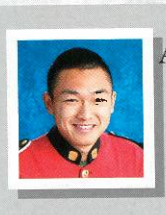
Andrew was awarded the Academy Good Conduct Cord, Service Pin, Silver Athletic Award, Silver Citizenship Award, and the Fitness Pin. He earned Marks of Distinction. Andrew accepted a position at York University where he will pursue a Degree in Kinesiology and Health Science.

Front: M. Serafi, Andrew Wong, D. Coscia, M. Dallas-Petersen, LCol G.S. Bowman, Capt. D. Harley, M. Rutherford, A. Currie, A. Briell, R. Duong

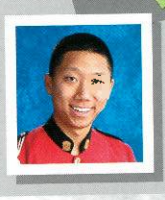
Back: S. Elkhafif, G. Joyce, Alex Wong, Z. Samdani, S. Tilden, E. Bablitz, J. Marshall, J. Pulford, D. Earle, A. Ens, R. Weston, T. Tong, S. Baum, Z. Krzewski, G. Kerr, E. Chen, J. Kwok

CLASS of 2009

January 2009 Graduates



Aaron Chan



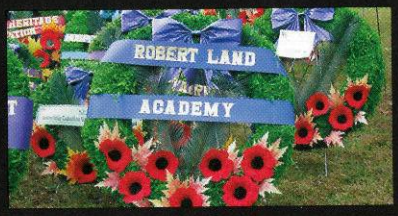
You Sang (Evan) Jin

Happy Birthday Robert Land Academy

On September 11, 2008 cadets and faculty celebrated the Academy's 30th anniversary with a barbecue and cake. It was 30 years ago in 1978 when the Academy welcomed its first group of 28 recruits.

Remembrance Day

Lest We Forget



Cadet Leadership

Senior NCO's

WO Michael Dallas-Petersen
Head Boy

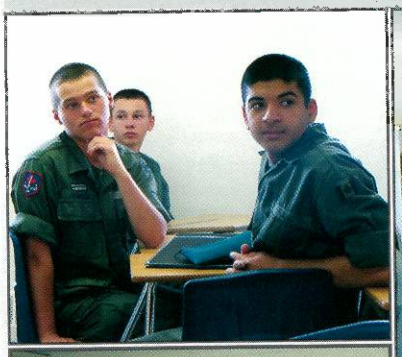
Sgt. Scott Vatcher
Parade Sergeant Major

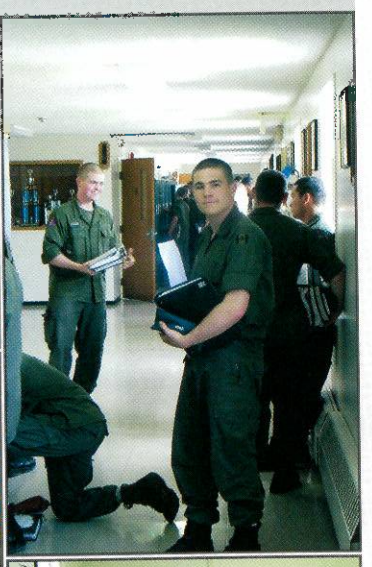
WO Jamie Rutherford
Aide-de-Camp

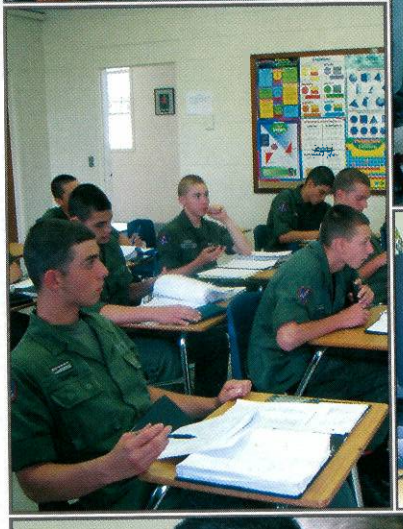
Sgt. Dylan Coscia
Aide-de-Camp

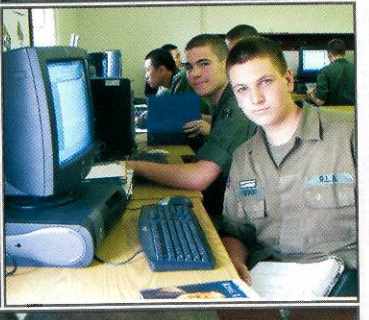
Academics in the classroom

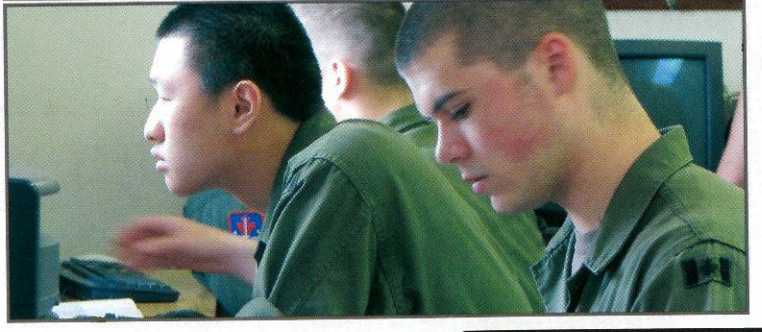
Robert Land Academy offers a demanding academic program that is as rigorous as the training and physical education components.

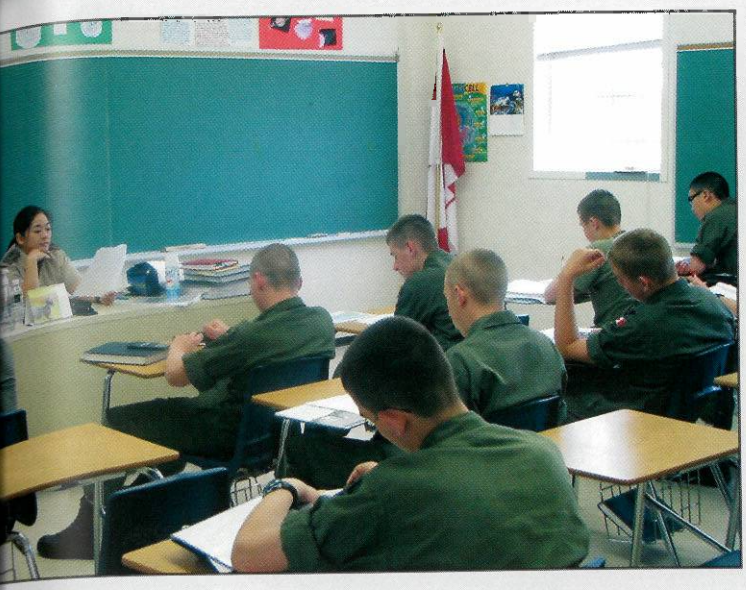


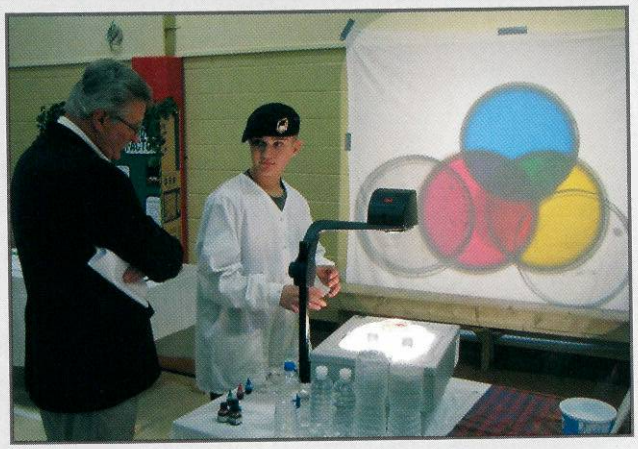


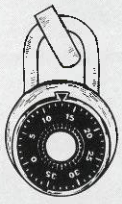


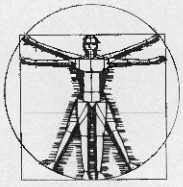








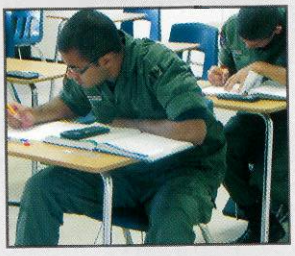




science fair

Grades 6, 7 & 8 showed off their creative side to parents at the 'A" Company Science Fair.

'A' Company



SPORTS

MVP AWARDS

Terrance Tong
Athlete of the Year

Terence Tong
Basketball

Michael Reardon
Hockey

Mosobalaje Adebisi
Rugby

Scott Vatcher
Soccer

Mosobalaje Adebisi
Track & Field

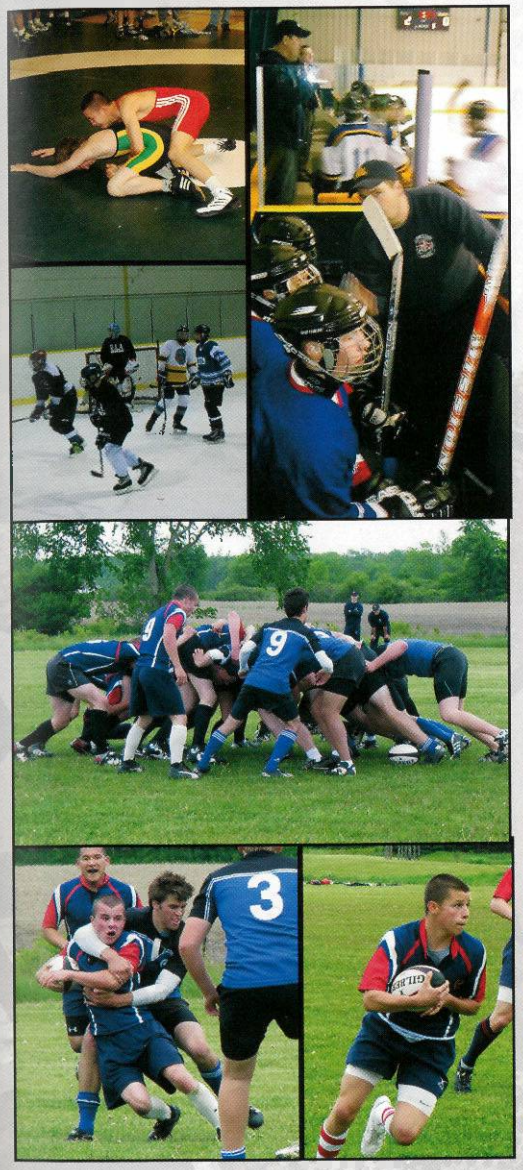
Louis-Martin Le
Wrestling

HOCKEY

FRONT: J. Wysocki, S. Bieberdorf, D. Warren, B. Bablitz, D. Driscoll
BACK: B. Garton, D. Gale, M. McDonald, A. Briel, S. Baum, M. Reardon, S. Lofranco, K. Godin, G. Kerr

SOCCER

FRONT: U. Khan, E. Daniels
MIDDLE: H. Khalifeh, A. Zhang, A. Aldubaikhi, D. Bertschi, G. Joyce, S. Vatcher, M. Lepine, I. Rassalov, S. Elkhafif
BACK: J. Wysocki, M. McLaren, C. Willoughby, O. Akinkuotu, M. Ker M. Grade, S. Bieberdorf, M. Imakin, A. Radziwill, D. Gale, H. Topolinsk J. Norlander, G. Militano, J. Cescolini, P. Hubert



RUGBY

FRONT: C. Schmidt, T. Shrestha, D. Driscoll, R. Weston, J. Rutherford, A. Ens, D. Collins, D. Hillman, S. Baum, F. Fraser, B. Butean, R. Strachan, M. Adebisi, A. Briell
BACK: T. Tong, A. Wong, D. Coscia, G. Doane, M. McDonald, S. Lofranco, M. Lepine, N Shearer, C. Smith, S. Grant, J. Pulford, C. Albert, Lt. Inglis (coach)

TRACK & FIELD

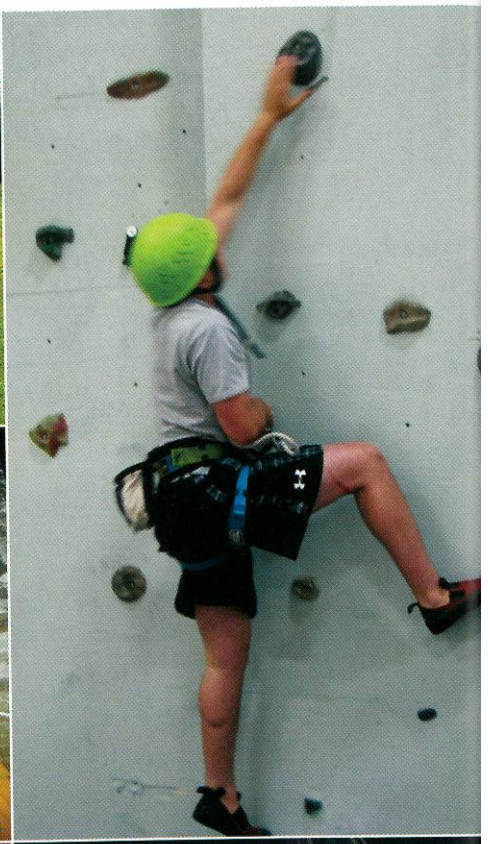
FRONT: D. Driscoll, D. Hillman
MIDDLE: T. Shrestha, A. Zhang,
BACK: A. Ens, J. Rodger, J. Norlander, S. Lofranco, C. Smith, C. Schmidt, C. MacLeod, T. Banbury, M. Adebisi

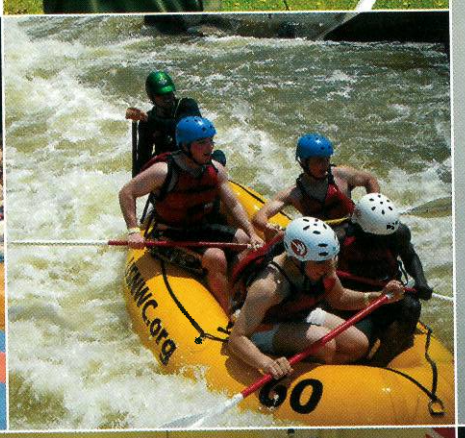
WRESTLING

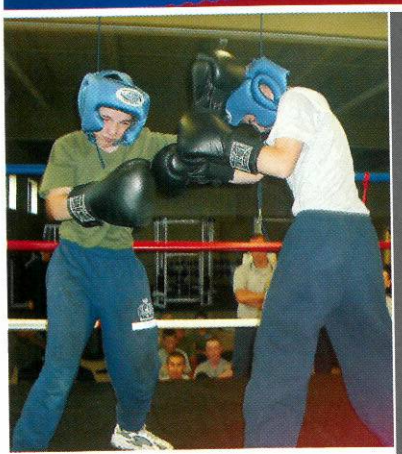
FRONT: C. Butt, C. Lee
MIDDLE: T. Woolley, J. Wysocki, M. Kerns, D. Collins, J. Rutherford, L. Lepine, R. Duong, A. Wong, M. Hynes
REAR: C. Lee, B. Butean, M. Schady, S. Halsey, K. Delaney, J. Marshall, R. Weston, C. Smith, D. Coscia, D. Driscoll, G. Militano, G. Kerr

Clubs & Activities

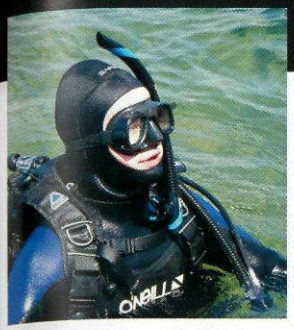
life between Summer

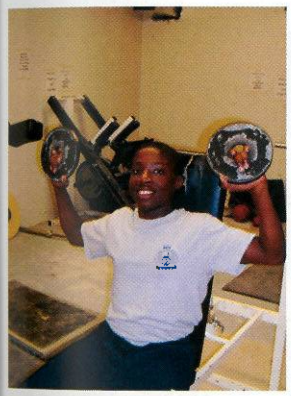




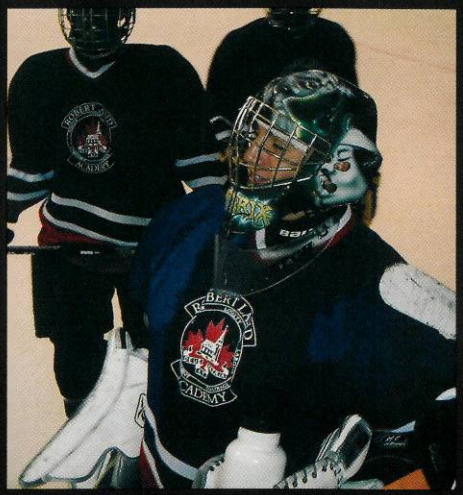


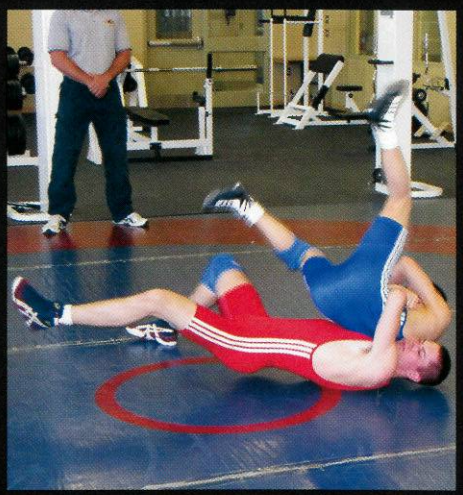
Robert Land Academy offers an active and healthy lifestyle for all of its students and faculty alike. Clubs are a weekly routine which affords students an opportunity to participate in a chosen activity.

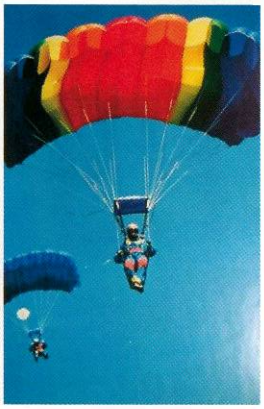




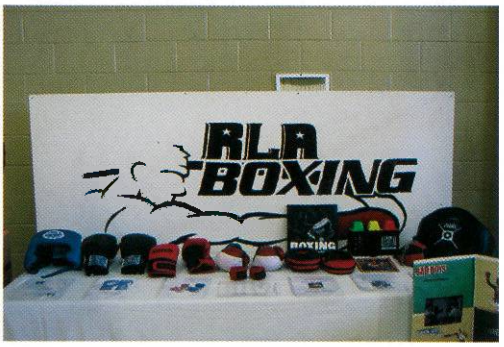
THE BATTLING BASTARDS OF BATAAN
NO MAMA NO PAPA NO UNCLE SAM







DEUS ET PATRIA


RLA
BOXING

FACULTY & STAFF

Roll Call

Teaching Faculty

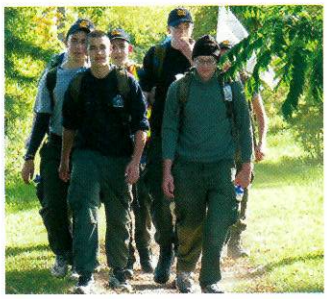
T. Amor
M. Andrews
E. Aoki
G. Ashfield
E. Banta
P. Barrington
K. Brown
J. Cunningham
P. Dugas
M. Erola
C. Fenwick
D. Harley
S. Inglis
D. Jack
T. Krywulak
F. Ogilvie
B. Servos
B. Simmons
S. Snijders
E. Sumodobila
T. Whyte

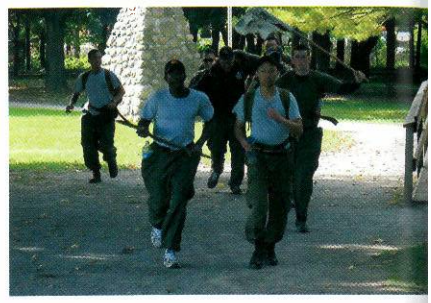
Operational Staff

R. Barr
W. Bates
L. Beardwood
M. Beardwood
G. Bowman
S. Crawford
I. Davidson
D. DiBartolomeo
C. Doig
D. Evans
R. Evans
W. Farr
S. Fennessy
C. Galajda
C. Giovannini
B. Harris
J. Harvey
B. MacRae
D. Maloney
K. Martin
S. McCulloch
J. Milliken
D. Morin
D. Nanson
T. Neill
A. Newman
D. Peterson
D. Phillips
M. Robinson
A. Scott
P. Zahra

Support Staff

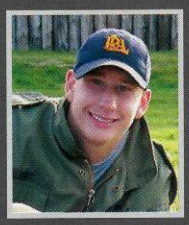
S. Berry
G.S. Bowman
S. Bowman
C. Campbell
S. Determann
R. Ferracuti
D. Graham
R. Graham
S. Hansler
G. Hewett
T. Hickey
D. Hills
L. Lake
B. Lee
A. Leech
S. Lyttle
D. McLeod
B. Ness
K. Nie
C. Palmer
S. Priddle
J. Robinson
D. Santarella
F. Sardella
A. Spaan
P. Spiller
R. Terryberry
J. Tomiak
M. VanStaden
P. Zdichavsky





The Fall Exercise

90 km in three days



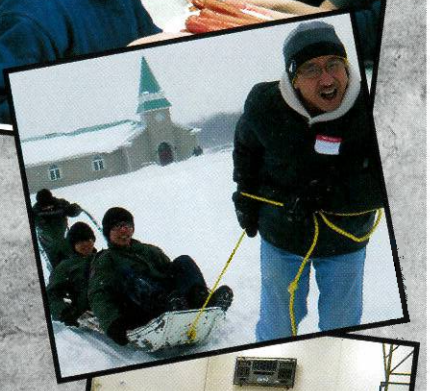
Covering over 90 kilometers in three days, cadets and faculty marched along sections of the Bruce Trail, making their way across the Niagara Peninsula. On the third day, the mission is complete when they arrive at Brock's Monument at Queenston Heights for the first badging parade of the year where deserving recruits are promoted to the rank of Cadet.

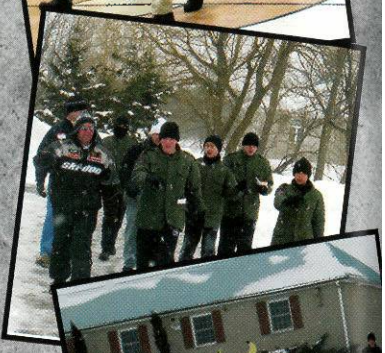
For those boys who joined the Academy in September, this parade marks their first opportunity for promotion from the rank of Recruit to Cadet.

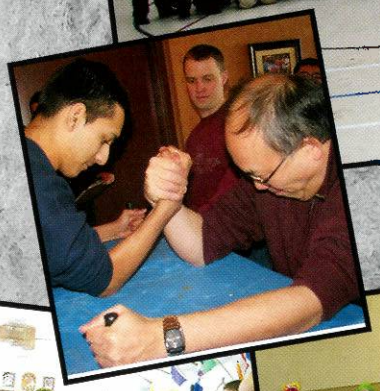
candids

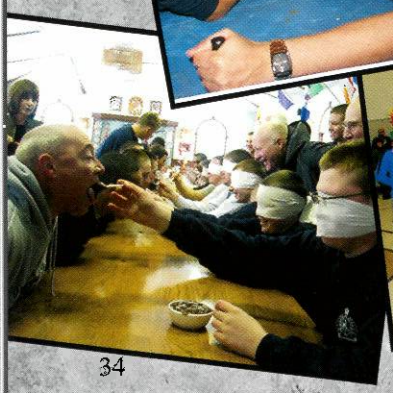
FATHER - SON DAY

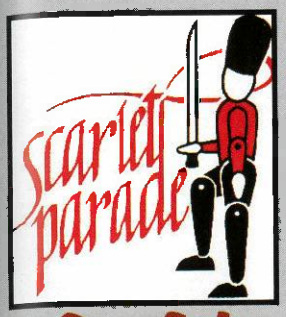
The cold weather and the hot chocolate brought out the best in the boys and their fathers on Father-Son Day in February. Teams enjoyed the day competing against one another in some uncanny events such as pudding and hot dog eating contests, tug-of-war, sled races, and tire rolling races to name a few. And don't forget the events exclusive to the dads - the funniest hat competition and the much anticipated Academy Sergeant Major's drill competition.A hearty banquet rounded out this perfect day, just to make sure no one went home hungry.



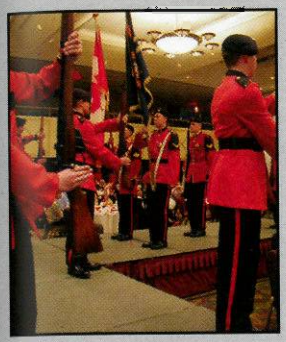








Scarlet Parade



This year's annual black-tie gala fundraising event was attended by parents, alumni, members of the Board of Governors, cadets, and other invited guests. Held at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto, procedes from the event were dedicated to the Founder's Scholarship Fund.

Mothers' Day Tea

In May, mothers were treated to a special day at the Academy - to be served by their sons. Mothers and sons enjoyed a memorable time together at this Mother's Day Tea which was hosted by the Cadets.

RCACC

2968 Royal Canadian (Army) Cadet Corps

ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY CADETS

Robert Land Academy is the official sponsor of 2968 Royal Canadian (Army) Cadet Corps. The corps operates as a separate club at the Academy, and provides cadets the opportunity to learn basic military skills taught through the Canadian Forces Instructor Cadre.

annual cadet inspection

RLA

Saturday, May 30, 2009

The Annual Inspection is an opportunity for family and guests to a first hand look at how the cadets live their daily lives, with tours of the barracks, academic and athletic facilities, grounds, and other facilities.

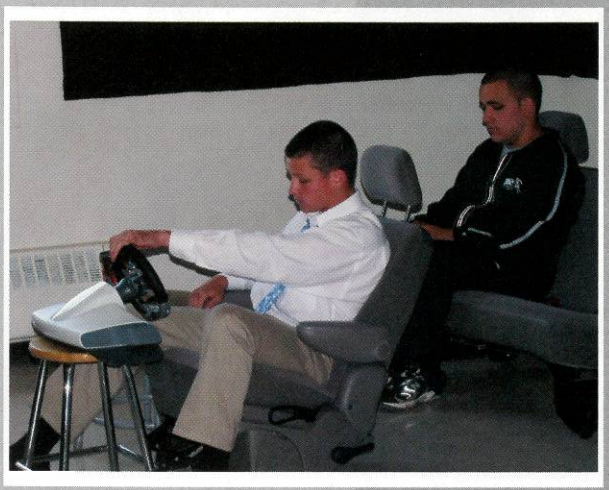
The Academy was honoured to host General Jack Fox, Deputy Adjutant General New Mexico National Guard, as the reviewing Officer for the Annual Inspection.

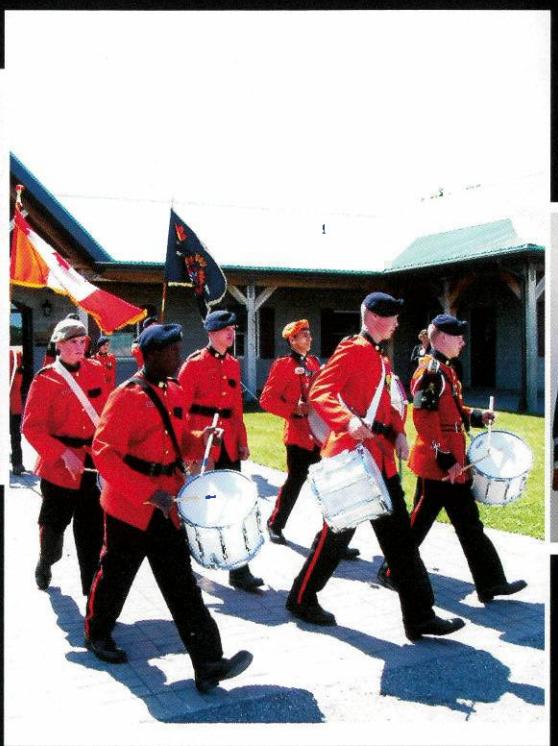
Representatives from the Area Cadet Detachment (London) local Legions and other VIPs were also in attendance.

LCol Bowman and General Fox watch the cadets march on to the parade.

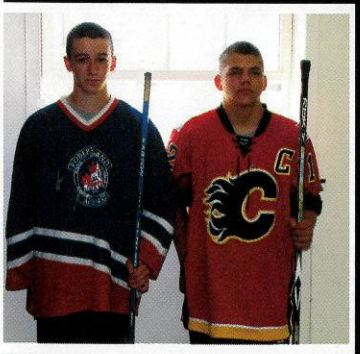
With Head Boy WO Michael Dallas-Petersen and Parade Sergeant Major Sergeant Scott Vatcher at the lead, the cadets take to the parade square in preparation for the inspection by General Fox.

Spencer Lofranco and Michael Reardon square off in *"Just a Game"*, a play about an obsessive "hockey dad" and his dejected son.





Christoffer Gaynair-Dede and Phillip Hubert face off at the math display. Who knew hockey incorporated so many of the principles of mathematics?



The RLA band leads the cadets through the main foyer of Ritchie Hall en-route to Eadie Square for the Annual Inspection Parade.

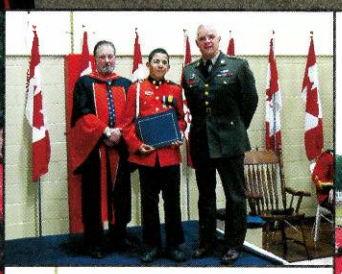
Academic, athletic and club displays are a reflection of the hard work and dedication of the cadets and faculty.

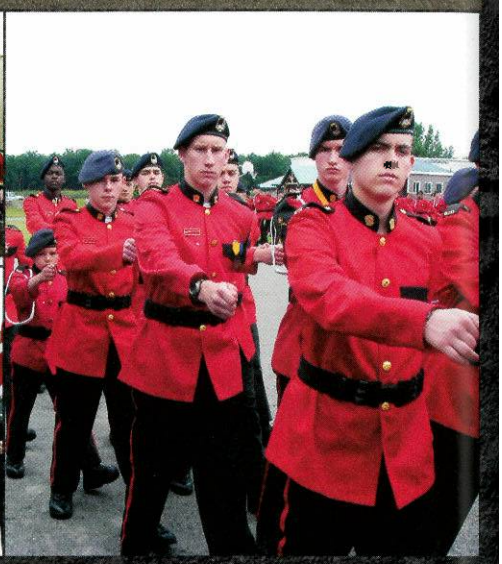
Annual Inspection Continued.....

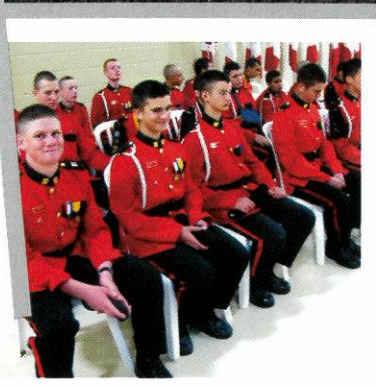
McGovern Library

The McGovern Library was dedicated to the memory of the late Dr. Murray McGovern on May 30, 2009. Dr. McGovern was a physician and psychiatrist whose guidance and consultation during the founding years of the Academy was instrumental to its establishment. Mrs. Laverne McGovern, widow of Dr. McGovern, was in attendance to cut the ribbon officially opening the McGovern Library situated in Stratford Hall. Mrs. McGovern was joined by a number of her children, grand children, and other family members.

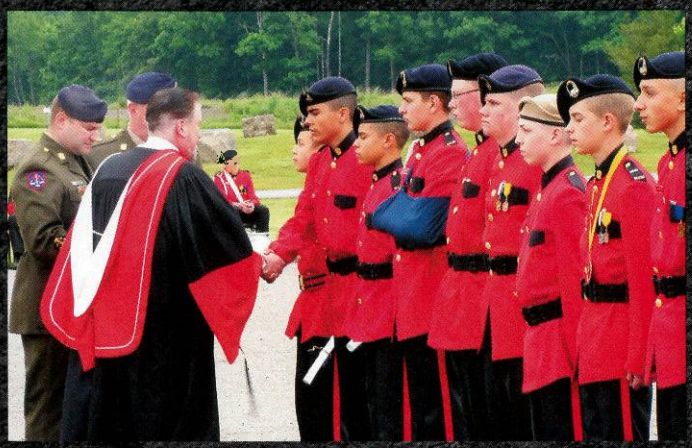
Graduation Parade







Saturday, June 20, 2009



VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

WO Mark (Jamie) Rutherford

Good afternoon Colonel Bowman, honoured guests, parents, and my fellow graduates. Today is a very significant day for all of us. For some, it simply marks the beginning of the student's favourite moment: the summer holidays. For others it means, that we do not have to run pack laps any more (well, this year anyways). Unfortunately, today also marks the moment when we may never see some of these faces again. Graduating today signifies that we have recognized a needed change in our lives, and we have applied this change to create a more productive individual. The most notable aspect I have taken away from my time at Robert Land Academy is that I am capable of making a change.

Change, to me, is relative depending on what you are changing from. We come to Robert Land and we change on three levels: physically, academically, and emotionally.

There is a valuable physical component associated with Robert Land. In September, we all embark on a journey which is called the Fall Exercise. This is the toughest physical challenge that I have done in my life (and I have done it three times over). This 90 km march across the Niagara Escarpment forces every single cadet to suffer through similar hardships: the blisters, the ankle sprains, the shin splints, the chafing, and the infamous stew and rice. Through these hardships, every member of the Academy becomes stronger both mentally and physically. There are also a number of strategic ways that a Robert Land student can get himself in shape: there is the lap track, jumping jacks, P.O. runs, push-ups, sit-ups, mountain-climbers and many more strange and wonderful exercises staff can make up in an instant. The result of enduring these physical endeavors is significant - we walk taller, we look stronger, and we feel better.

Many of us come to the Academy priding ourselves on academic failure. It was looked at as a badge of honour to get a surprisingly low mark on a test or assignment. It was looked at as a status symbol to show off how many skips there were on the final report card. Fifty percent was looked at as an acceptable grade. This school teaches us that there are uncomfortable consequences to not putting in any effort through discipline. And that failure is not an option. It is not the school that gives us the marks. And it is not the teachers that pass us through the course. It is we who struggle to accomplish the tasks. We are the ones doing our homework. We are the ones studying for the tests. We are the ones asking questions when we don't understand. Robert Land teaches us that we are capable of so much more than previously expected and that we earned every mark we received.

In my opinion, the emotional transformation is the most significant. Cadets first come here with no pride, no self esteem, and no self confidence. They are use to having things done for them and not having any sense of accomplishment or success. Through the system set in place at Robert Land, cadets are given opportunity to be rewarded for their hard work. The parents can see the transformation particularly through the first few stand downs (especially when you accidentally call your own mother, maam). Their sons come back walking with their chests out, heads held high and they brag about all the tough things that they do here daily (most of which I am sure are a little exaggerated, but that is ok). We walk with confidence, we speak with confidence, and we shake hands and introduce ourselves with confidence. Through the Robert Land system, we grow as individuals and as men, and we leave here with a higher standard for life and a greater appreciation for it.

Robert Land Academy is a microcosm, a tiny little world within the one that we call home. It bases itself on structure and discipline. We are always busy here. We always have somewhere to go, some place to be. And as soon as we find ourselves doing nothing, we are usually not doing what we are supposed to. This structure teaches us that we could always be more productive. We could always be doing something better with our time rather than sitting around doing nothing.

I would like to mention some of my memories and the people that made this place a little easier for me and that made the time go by a little faster. Like Duong, and his little accident in calculus. And that far off little

look he has like everything is a surprise to him. And Tong, who can never be serious and is always able to make me laugh and cheer me up. Coscia, always arguing with me about who has the most nicknames! (And it is me by the way!) Or chatting with Dallas and coming to the conclusion that he always has to be right about everything! And I could never forget about Ens and all the silly comments that he has made throughout our time here. Or Serafi, and his iron fist on his company. And Weston, always arguing just for the sake of arguing. These are all people who mean a lot to me. And I would do a lot for all of them. They are also the leaders of the school, and I am grateful that I was able to meet with these people.

The change in the Robert Land cadets would not be possible without the support of many of the staff and teachers.

Ms. Lake and Mrs. Spiller both go out of their way to make sure that all of the graduates are organized and on top of things. Dr. Brown has taken time out of his day to make sure that we know how hard university is going to be for us next year. Dr. Inglis has thoroughly prepared the exercise science class for first year kinesiology. Lt. Simmons managed to make all of us look forward to English class. Lt. Servos made sure that everyone in the class actually understood what was taught by the end of the day. Captain Doig and Captain Milliken have always been there for the benefit of every member of the Academy to reach their highest potential, regardless of the situation they were in. The kitchen staff, maintenance staff, and matron all make our lives here that much more comfortable

But in particular, I would like the acknowledge Capt. Milliken, DSM Robinson, and Lt. Snijders. DSM has gone above and beyond the call of duty to make sure that every member of Charlie Company is on top of their marks, community service hours, university arrangements and personal character. This man has always left his door open to listen and guide anyone who came to it looking for help and assistance. You are a good man sir, and I will never forget you.

Lt. Snijders has been there for me every painful step of the way. From wrestling to academics, Lt. Snijders always took time out of his busy schedule to make sure that I was always on top of everything. I completely respect this man and would do just about anything for him. I am forever in debt to you sir, and this school is lucky to have such a dedicated person like you on staff.

In my Robert Land career, the progress I have made has been an outstanding improvement. I now have a sense of self pride. And with that comes maturity to take ownership for my own actions, as opposed to always having someone else to blame and point the finger at. Before I came here I had NEVER joined any sports team or participated in any type of extra curricular activity, and now I will leave here the captain of the wrestling team and the co-captain of the Loyalist rugby team. I could never have imagined that I would have ended up being an Ontario Scholar with marks of distinction prior to my attendance at Robert Land Academy, or to have been given the honour of preparing the valedictorian speech for 2009. I will leave Robert Land with a positive outlook and attitude towards life and all the aspects of it. The changes in me are indicative of the changes that all the Robert Land cadets go through.

However, it was not Robert Land that changed me; it was my willingness to change myself. Although the Academy is not to be without my appreciation it was Robert Land that provided me with my second chance.

This has been a second chance to build broken relationships with my parents, family, and friends; a second chance to steer myself onto the true path of life; a second chance to right my wrongs, and finally make mature, well thought out choices; and a second chance to finally make my mom proud of me, and be the man that I have become. These mere three years of my life may appear insignificant, but I assure you they have been filled with triumph, change, and assuredly, hard learned lessons. If there is one thing any one should take from this speech, let alone the entire Academy, it is that in the short time we are cadets there is enough time to completely change our lives. Change is the critical concept of the Academy, changing our lives for the better. As Abraham Lincoln wisely said, *"In the end, its not the years in your life that count, its the life in your years."*

With my final words I would like to thank my family as well as my girlfriend Lia (who I've been with for three years) and her loving family, for never giving up on me and always being there in my support.

I will never forget this place and I will always use the knowledge and skills that I have learned here in my everyday life, and they will assist me in being the man that stands in front of you today - a man that my family is now proud of - a man that my father would have been proud of. Thank you Robert Land Academy.

AWARDS

HONOUR ROLL

Marks 80% and Above

Bogdan Butean
Connor Butt
Justin Cescolini
Henry Chan
Eric Chen
Ming Jang Chen
Michael Dallas-Petersen
Kyle Delaney
Shereef Elkhafif
Kevin Fernandes
Joseph Ferri
Daveth Freemantle
Kyle Godin
Jeremi Habib
Zachary Krzewski
Ethan Lambie
Calvin Lee
Andrew Michael
Giovanni Militano
Mark Rutherford
Amani Shaw
Nicholas Shearer
Tsering Shrestha
Nathan Sikora
Carson Smith
Morgan Smith
Samuel Tilden
Hunter Topolinski
Jack Van Der Pols
Malcolm Vinet
Adam Winick
Alex Wong
Justin Wysocki
Joshua Zhang

MARKS OF DISTINCTION

Marks 75% - 79%

Eric Bablitz
Scott Baum
Christopher Bertschi
Alex Briell
Greg Doane
Robert Duong
Fabian Fraser
Devon Gale
Stephen Halsey
Michael Hollister
Maxim Jmakin
Spencer Lofranco
Alexander Macintyre
Nicholas Olynyk
Darek Partyka
Artur Radziwill
Tristen Ramsay
Andrew Urist
Aaron Veenstra
Darian Walters
Robert Weston
Craig Willoughby
Andrew Wong
Taylor Woolley
Brandon Wysocki
Rick Yacub

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S AWARD

Bar Zachary Krzewski

ROBERT LAND TROPHY

WO Michael Dallas-Peterson
WO Mark (Jamie) Rutherford

HEADMASTER'S MEDAL

MCpl Justin Wysocki
WO Aaron Ens

. . . and recognition

JAMES FITZGIBBON AWARD
MBar Joshua Zhang

ISSAC BROCK AWARD
MBar Jeremi Habib

COLIN SMAGATA CUP
DBar Morgan Smith

SERGEANTS' MAJOR AWARD
LCpl Christopher Albert

ROBERT LAND ACADEMY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
Sgt Mohamed Serafi

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AWARD
Cpl Terence Tong

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD OF EXCELENCE
Cpl Matthew McLaren

JUNIOR ATHLETIC AWARD
DBar Connor Butt

ROBERT LAND ACADEMY EXPLORERS AWARD
Cadet Kyle Tebbs
Cadet Jonathan Wilson

JUNIOR ENGLISH CREATIVE WRITING AWARD
DBar Connor Butt

JUNIOR ENGLISH LITERACY AWARD
MBar Joshua Zhang

TIM RIGBY ESPRIT DE CORPS AWARD
Cadet Mathieu Bond

MODEL CLUB AWARD
MBar Stephen Halsey

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD
DBar Connor Butt

MARTIAL ARTS AWARD
LCpl Gregory Joyce

BAND MASTER'S AWARD
Cadet Shereef Elkhafif

MUSKETRY AWARD
Bar Nicholas Shearer

FRENCH BOOK PRIZE
MBar Joshua Zhang - Junior
DBar Andrew Michael - Intermediate

GEOGRAPHY BOOK PRIZE
Bar Joseph Ferri - Junior
Bar Nicholas Shearer - Intermediate
MCpl Robert Weston - Senior

HISTORY BOOK PRIZE
DBar Morgan Smith - Junior
DBar Maxim Imakin - Intermediate
Bar Nathan Sikora - Senior

SCIENCE BOOK PRIZE
Bar Joseph Ferri - Junior
MCpl Justin Wysocki - Intermediate
Bar Zachary Krzewski - Senior

MATHEMATICS BOOK PRIZE
Bar Calvin Lee - Junior
Bar Malcom Vinet - Intermediate
LCpl Eric Chen - Senior

EUCLID MEDAL
LCpl Eric Chen

W.L. HAWKINS AWARD
Sgt Henry Chan

VISUAL ARTS PRIZE
DBar Connor Butt - Junior
DBar Robert Belza - Intermediate
Cpl Tsering Shrestha - Senior

CENTAURI ARTS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Cadet Artur Radziwill

ENGLISH BOOK PRIZE
Cadet Daveth Freemantle - Intermediate
Bar Zachary Krzewski - Senior

COMPUTER SCIENCE BOOK PRIZE
Bar Malcolm Vinet - Intermediate
Cpl Mosobalaje Adebisi - Senior

PARADE SEARGEANT MAJOR AWARD
Sergeant Scott Vatcher

ROYAL BANK SENIOR BUSINESS AND COMMERCE PRIZE
LCpl Eric Chen

BILLY BISHOP AWARD
DBar Kyle Delaney
Bar Malcolm Vinet

HEAD BOY AWARD
WO Michael Dallas-Petersen

CANADIAN FORESTERS AWARD
Bar Ming Jang Chen

JOHN HAY TO LIFE AWARD
Cpl Robert Duong

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION DUNNVILLE BRANCH 142 BURSARY / RCACC SERVICE AWARD
Cadet Earl James Daniels

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE
LCpl Gregory Joyce

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD OF INTERMEDIATE CREATIVE WRITING
Cadet Daveth Freemantle

PAUL HUNTER GOLD CITIZENSHIP AWARD
Bar Johnson Case
DBar Darek Partyka

LARRY DAVIDSON MEMORIAL AWARD
Cpl Mosobalaje Adebisi
LCpl Eric Chen

AMCSUS AWARD
Sgt Scott Vatcher

Caught in the Act 2009

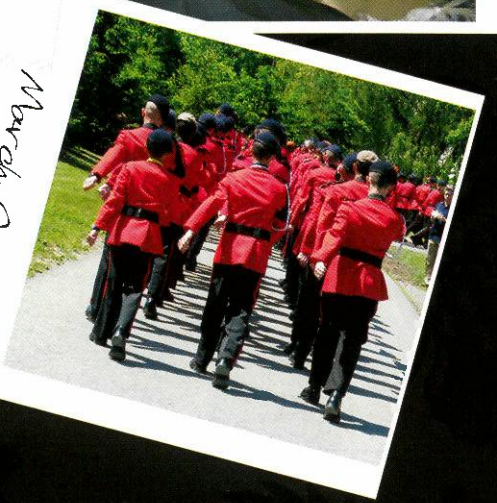
Ready for our closeup!

Feasting time at the zoo

Left - Right - Left

Looking Good!

And the beat goes on



March On!

Fun & Games!

Show us what you're made of!

Winter in the desert

Yahoooo !

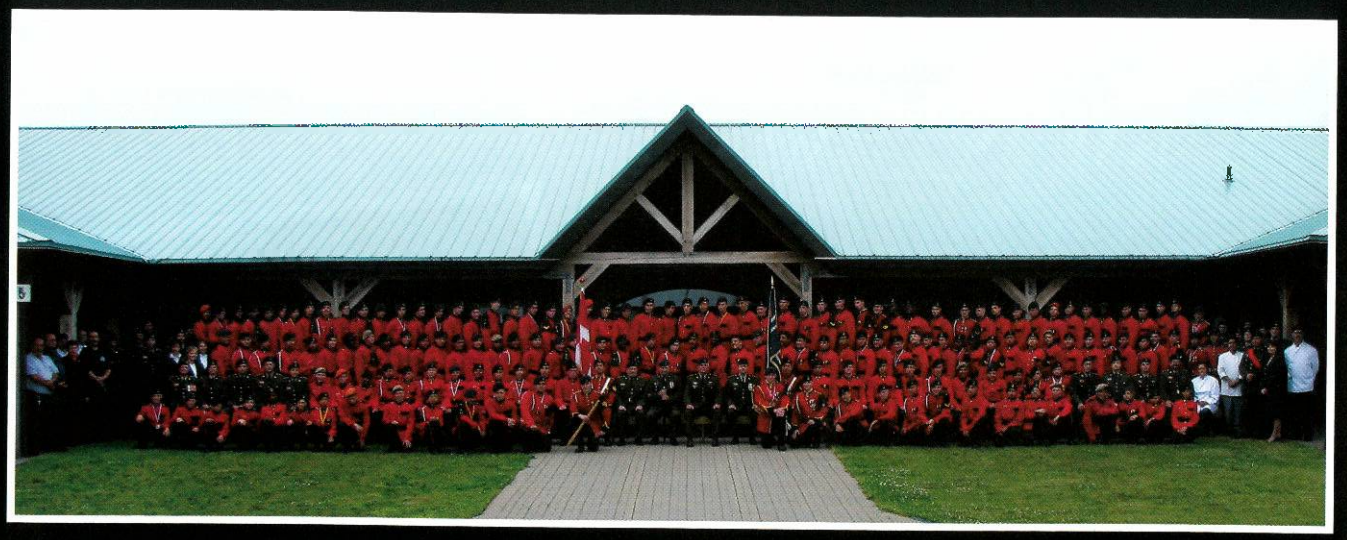
Bam-Bam's new set of Wheels

KABOOM !

Sunset...Ready, Sir !

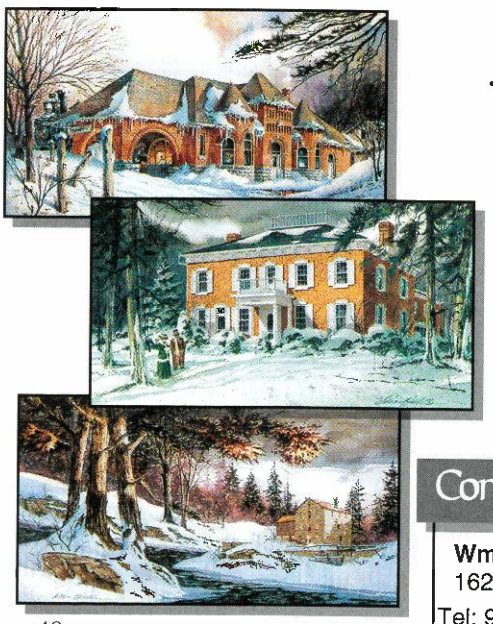
Wishing it was summer

jostens®



ROBERT LAND ACADEMY
Cadets, Faculty & Staff
2008 ~ 2009

William Biddle **LIMITED EDITIONS**



Robert Land Academy - Visiting Artist

Wm. Biddle

~ Originals
~ Prints
~ Commissions
~ Framing

Contact Pamela Price at:

Wm. Biddle Gallery
162 Queen St. Dunnville, ON N1A 1H7
Tel: 905-701-6897 wmbiddle@mountaincable.net

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